

**In the Claims:**

Please replace the prior listing of claims with the following amended listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) Restraining apparatus for coupling at least two users comprising at least one spine member with at least two lateral attachment members ~~for coupling the~~ adapted to couple respective first and second users to the spine member, the spine member having ~~two planes, and having more flexibility in one plane than in the other~~ a first vertical plane, and a second lateral plane, the spine member having a stiffening member to enhance rigidity in said first vertical plane, whereby the spine member is rigid in said vertical plane but wherein the spine member has a higher degree of flexibility in said lateral plane than in said vertical plane.
2. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, where the spine member is an elongate member selected from the group consisting of a rod and a plate from which the lateral attachment members extend sideways.
3. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spine member is inextensible along its long axis.
4. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spine member ~~is rigid in its vertical plane but~~ has a degree of lateral resilience.
5. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spine member is at least partially formed from a material selected from the group comprising plastics material, composite material, and resilient materials.
6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, wherein the stiffening member is at least partially formed from a material selected from the group consisting of plastics, metals and composite materials.
8. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the attachment members are releasably secured to the spine member.
9. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the attachment members comprise elongate arms extending laterally from the spine member.
10. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the arms have properties selected from the group consisting of flexibility, axial extensibility, and compressibility.
11. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the arms are pivotable with respect to the spine member.
12. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least two arms are provided and at least two of the arms are pivotable with respect to each other.
13. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein respective attachment members extend from different sides of the spine member.
14. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein attachment members are staggered along the spine member.
15. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, including harnesses worn by each user and wherein the attachment members are adapted to attach to the harnesses.
16. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the attachment members are adapted to attach releasably to the harnesses.

17. (Previously amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, incorporating luminous, reflective and/or light emitting devices.

18. (Currently amended) A method of securing or restraining ~~a person~~ at least two users together, comprising harnessing ~~the person~~ each of the users to a common spine member via an respective attachment member, the spine member having ~~at least two planes, and having a different degree of flexibility in respective planes other~~ a first vertical plane, and a second lateral plane, the spine member having a stiffening member to enhance rigidity in said first vertical plane, whereby the spine member is rigid in said vertical plane but wherein the spine member has a higher degree of flexibility in said lateral plane than in said vertical plane.

19. (Cancelled).